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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS AND OTHER MATTERS: PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

Proposed programme of work of the Division for Social Policy and Development for the biennium 1998-1999

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with regulation 3.1 and rules 103.2, 103.3 and 103.6 of the United Nations Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of the Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1 (1987)), the intergovernmental body concerned with specific programmes is requested to provide comments on the proposed work programme for the next biennium. The annex to the present note contains initial proposals being considered by the Secretary-General for incorporation in the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 in the field of social development.

2. The Commission may wish to comment on the proposed programme of work of the Division for Social Policy and Development for the biennium 1998-1999, bearing in mind that it will be reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Assembly before approval by the Assembly at its fifty-second session.

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Annex

PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999 FOR THE DIVISION FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR POLICY COORDINATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT

1. The proposed programme of work is an elaboration of the activities in the field of social development to be carried out by the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat for the biennium 1998-1999. It has been prepared within the framework of programme 5 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/219. It also follows upon the programme of work of the Commission for Social Development decided on by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1996/7, and on the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[a] and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[b] adopted by the Summit, held at Copenhagen in March 1995, and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 50/161.

2. The proposed programme of work has been designed to undertake follow-up action relating to the World Summit for Social Development; it will seek to strengthen policy dialogue and support for international cooperation for development from the social perspective, with particular attention to the three core Summit issues of poverty eradication, employment generation and social integration. Activities will focus on furthering implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, and related international instruments which include the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[c] the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,[d] the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,[e] the International Plan of Action on Ageing,[f] and the United Nations Principles for Older Persons,[g] as well as on follow-up to the International Year of the Family (1994).

3. The Division will direct major focus during the biennium 1998-1999 on strengthening and improving substantive services for the annualized sessions of the newly expanded Commission for Social Development. Its work programme has been planned around three issue clusters, reflecting key dimensions of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action:

(a) Social policies and planning;

(b) Social institutions and participation;

(c) Social integration.

(a) Social policies and planning

With its main focus on follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, the objective of this activity would be to provide information and analyses of issues and trends from the social perspective and to formulate strategies and policy options to implement the objectives of the Summit. The activity would seek to contribute knowledge and understanding of development from the social perspective, with special emphasis on information and outreach among the multifarious Summit constituencies. Monitoring, coordination and analytical support would be provided to United Nations system-wide efforts in support of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006).

(b) Social institutions and participation

The objective of this activity would be to provide Member States with information and analyses of issues and trends in institutional arrangements and participation of civil society in development. Special attention would be directed to the International Year of the Family (1994) with a view to formulating family-sensitive strategies and policy options and measures to attain them. The activity would also contribute knowledge and understanding of the role of cooperatives in the promotion of people-centred livelihoods and improved well-being in line with the objectives of the Summit. In addition, the activity would review and assess issues and trends in institutional development and their implications for promoting social cohesion under rapid economic and social change.

(c) Social integration

The objective of this activity would be to undertake efficient and effective monitoring, coordination and outreach in support of international instruments in the social field, including the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, the International Plan of Action on Ageing, and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. Emphasis will be accorded to providing information and analyses on issues in policy options and measures that would further social integration and full and effective participation of civil society, on the basis of equality, in development. Major focus will be directed to substantive preparations for the cross-cutting priority themes of the thirty-sixth and the thirty-seventh sessions of the Commission for Social Development - 'social integration and participation' and 'social services for all' - respectively, as well as preparations for the observance in 1999 of the International Year of Older Persons.

Activities

1. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies

(a) General Assembly:

(i) Parliamentary documentation:

a. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (1998) (1999);

b. United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1998) (1999);

c. Guidelines in respect of cooperatives (1999);

d. Follow-up to the International Year of the Family (1998) (1999);

e. Follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (1998);

f. International Year of Older Persons (1998) (1999);

g. Implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (1999);

(ii) Substantive servicing: plenary meetings in 1998 and 1999;

(b) Economic and Social Council:

Substantive servicing: plenary meetings in 1998 and 1999;

(c) Commission for Social Development:

(i) Parliamentary documentation:

a. Analytical reports on the thematic issues before the Commission in accordance with the multi-year work programme;

i. Report of the Secretary-General on promoting social integration and participation of all people (1998): report of the ad hoc expert group meeting, and background document(s);

ii. Report of the Secretary-General on social services for all (1999): report of the ad hoc expert group meeting, and background document(s);

iii. Report of the Secretary-General on the initiation of the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (1999);

b. Survey of national family policies (1999);

c. Report of the ad hoc support group of the Commission on preparations for observation of the International Year of Older Persons (1998) (1999);

d. Follow-up to the work of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Social Development on Disability (1998) (1999);

(ii) Substantive servicing:

a. Plenary and in-session working groups (1998): 16 plenary, 4 working group meetings;

b. Plenary and in-session working groups (1999): 16 plenary, 4 working group meetings;

c. Inter-sessional meetings of the Bureau (1998): two meetings;

d. Inter-sessional meetings of the Bureau (1999): two meetings;

e. Ad hoc open-ended support group of the Commission on preparations for observation of the International Year of Older Persons (1998): four meetings;

f. Ad hoc open-ended support group of the Commission on preparations for observation of the International Year of Older Persons (1999): two meetings;

g. Ad hoc expert group on social integration and participation (1998): five meetings;

h. Ad hoc expert group on social services for all (1999): five meetings.

2. Published material:

(a) Mandated recurrent publications:

(i) Social Policy and Social Progress: two issues (1998), two issues (1999);

(ii) Bulletin on the Eradication of Poverty: one issue (1998), one issue (1999);

(iii) United Nations Youth Information Bulletin: three issues (1998), three issues (1999);

(iv) Disabled Persons Bulletin: three issues (1998), three issues (1999);

(v) Bulletin on Ageing: three issues (1998), three issues (1999);

(vi) "Countdown to 1999": six issues (1998);

(b) Discretionary recurrent publication(s):

(i) Periodic updates of database of specialized constituencies (governmental and non-governmental) concerned with social policies and development, including interested non-governmental committees;

(ii) Directory of bodies and organizations concerned with social policies and development: one issue (1998), one issue (1999);

(c) Non-recurrent publications:

(i) Social policy options for social integration and development (1998);

(ii) Capacity-building for institutional development and participation (1999);

(iii) National capacity-building for implementing family-sensitive policy: case studies (1998);

(iv) Selected country profiles of family-sensitive policies (1999);

(v) World situation of youth (1998);

(vi) Policy options for a society for all ages (1999);

(vii) Selected innovations and best practices in relation to the goals and objectives of the International Year of Older Persons (1999);

(d) Technical material: periodic updates of "Social perspective on development home page" on the Internet/World Wide Web (under development@un.org/dpcsd/dspd) with respect to substantive content, development of external linkages, and expanded mail-server capacities.

3. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison:

(a) Follow-up related to social objectives of recent United Nations conferences and thematic years (1998) (1999);

(b) Conference of ministers responsible for youth issues (1998):

(i) Report of the conference;

(ii) Background document(s);

(iii) Substantive and technical servicing: 10 meetings;

(c) Interregional meeting on policies to promote a society for all ages (1998):

(i) Report of the meeting;

(ii) Background document(s);

(d) Expert group meeting on legislative initiatives in support of cooperatives and development (1998):

(i) Report of the meeting;

(ii) Background document(s);

(e) Expert group meetings on monitoring of poverty eradication strategies (1998) (1999):

(i) Reports of the respective meetings;

(ii) Background document(s) for the respective meetings;

(f) Expert group meeting on national capacity-building regarding family-sensitive policies and development (1998);

(i) Report of the meeting;

(ii) Background document(s);

(g) Expert group meeting on family-supportive approaches to development (1999):

(i) Report of the meeting;

(ii) Background document(s);

(h) Substantive and technical servicing of inter-agency consultations regarding the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1998) (1999);

(i) Substantive participation at annual meetings of the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) (1998) (1999): background document(s);

(j) Substantive and technical servicing of ad hoc inter-agency meetings on youth, ageing and disabled persons (1998) (1999);

(k) Support and promotion of networks among non-governmental organization committees and caucuses related to

(i) Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development;

(ii) United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty;

(iii) Older persons, including observance of the International Year of Older Persons;

(iv) Youth;

(v) Family;

(vi) Disabled persons;

(l) Support for and preparation of information materials for observance of international days: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October), International Day of Cooperatives (first Saturday in July), International Day of Families (15 May), International Day of Older Persons (1 October) and International Day of Disabled Persons (3 December);

(m) Promotion and development of networks with research and academic centres and institutions, including service on advisory boards on request.

4. Technical cooperation:

Substantive support to development cooperation initiatives of Governments, on request, to further implement international instruments related to social policies and planning, social institutions and participation, and social integration, including substantive support of activities assisted by general trust funds in the social development field and as this would pertain to follow-up to activities of the Commission's Special Rapporteur on Disability.

Notes

[a] Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[b] Ibid., annex II.

[c] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

[d] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

[e] General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex.

[f] See Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 26 July to 6 August 1982 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect. A.

[g] General Assembly resolution 46/91, annex.